The Congregational Way

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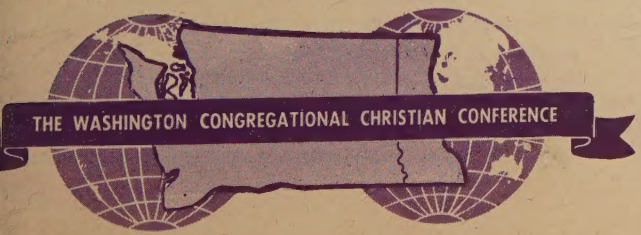
April, 1952



The Congregational Way

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POSITIVE FAITH

Archie W. Hook

Minister and Superintendent

I don't believe in devils.". . . . ."I don't believe in saints.". . . . ."I don't believe. . ." "I don't believe. . ." Who doesn't at times feel a close kinship with doubting Thomas? But, isn't it criminal to waste precious time and energy in teaching or arguing about the things we don't believe, when life and strength are far too limited ever to do one's best in proclaiming and living the undisputable truths. A wise professor used to tell his class of Seminary students at least once each semester, "PREACH YOUR FAITH, NOT YOUR DOUBTS." Let us start where we are with what we do believe, not where someone else is with what he doesn't believe. We need to kneel again with the disciple at Jesus' feet and pray, "Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief."

In John's account of Jesus' healing of the blind man, the important thing is not the questions of the disciples before the cure, nor the discussion of the neighbors and Pharisees following, but the declaration of the man who received his sight when he said, in answer to their queries, "I know not: one thing I know, whereas I was blind, now I see."

A group of high school students in a Summer Conference got quite upset one day in a discussion concerning things which some of the group did not believe. The leader suggested that each one write down a list of the things in which he DID believe. Before the group had finished writing one of the fellows said: "What's the use of going any further with this? I already have more things in which I believe, than I will ever be able to live in a hundred years."

PLYMOUTH HOST TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE ..... May 6, 7, 8

Plymouth Congregational Church, Seattle, will be host to the 64th annual meeting of the Conference. The sessions will begin on Tuesday morning, May 6th, with registration at 9:30, and will continue through Thursday evening, May 8th. Rev. David Julius of Pullman will serve as Moderator, and Rev. Thomas McQueen of Spokane will be the chaplain.

Each church is entitled to two lay delegates and pastor, and an additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof, after the first 100. In addition to the official delegates, each church is entitled to as many associate delegates as can attend the conference.

We Are The Witnesses

The various program presentations will relate to the theme, "We Are the Witnesses." Dr. Wofford C. Timmons of the Department of Evangelism will speak each day on the theme, and seminars will discuss the presentations.

There will also be interest groups in the areas of Women's work, Laymen's Fellowship, Christian Education, Audio Visuals, Social Action concerns, Missions. Our Christian World Mission awards will be made to local churches, and the Woman's Gift will be dedicated. There will be opportunity to see the new churches in Seattle, and to meet the new ministers in the conference.

There will be a special preview of the movie, "More for Peace." This is the new film for use in Congregational churches next fall. Mrs. Chester Fisk of Tacoma and author of "The Art of the Rhythmic Choir" will give a demonstration of the rhythmic choir as an expression of worship.

Special Guests

Three representatives of our national fellowship will share in the sessions of our conference. Dr. Wofford C. Timmons of the Board of Home Missions, Department of Evangelism, will serve as conference lecturer.

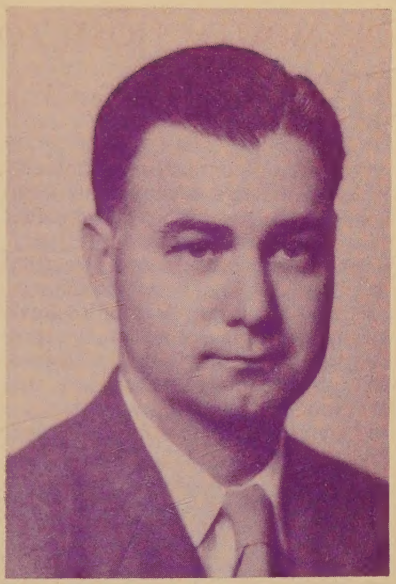
The Rev. Philip M. Widenhouse, General Secretary of the American Missionary Association, will bring information of the accomplishments in this field, and plans for the future.

The Rev. James F. McKinley, an of the College of Theology Sillman University, Dunaguets, l represent the American Board l tell of our work in the Philip- es.

Women's Fellowship

The annual meeting of the Wo- n's Fellowship will be held in nection with the conference. At s time reports of the work for the year will be given, and plans the future will be made. Officers the year will be elected. Mrs. H. Harris, president, will preside this session.

The annual conference is a time fellowship and inspiration, as ll as caring for business and king plans for the conference. ch church in the Conference uld be represented with its full egation of lay people. This is opportunity of enrichment for the al church.



Philip M. Widenhouse

Wofford C. Timmons

James F. Mckinley

News of the Churches

VANCOUVER . . .

The Pilgrim Fellowship recently sponsored its second annual hobby fair at First Congregational Church. The program consisted of a two act play, stunts, music and food.

The Men's Club and Women's Guild continue sponsoring activities for the entire fellowship, and the membership increases under the leadership of Rev. Wade Carter, minister.

HILLYARD . . .

One of the latest news sheets to appear comes from Hillyard church and bears a unique title—"The Concatenator" which means links together. This sheet is dedicated to the purpose of linking together those who come to church with those who don't. Among the items reported was an important congregational dinner meeting when plans were made for decorating the church and ideas received for future activities. The Rev. F. W. Westwood is minister.

WHITE SALMON . . .

The Rev. James Duffey reports that a work day on Saturdays organized by the men of the church, with the women furnishing lunch, has made improvements in the church facilities and the grounds. Among those to be noted include a sign announcing the location of the Bethel church. The Women's Guild has purchased equipment for the kitchen and are paying for the laying of asphalt tile. New robes for the choir have been purchased, and a coffee hour following the morning service has increased the fellowship of the group.

SUQUAMISH . . .

The Suquamish church is maintaining regular morning services at 9:30, with Sunday school following. A group of about 20 have been meeting fortnightly for Bible study, under the leadership of Rev. Edward Ohrenstein, and representatives of the church have participated in outside fellowship activities.

METALINE FALLS . . .

The success of the Every Family Canvass this winter was a double success. In terms of dollars and cents, pledges were brought in exceeding the amount of the budget of $4,620. And, Rev. Carl Baird reports, that something new happened when the men who took part in the canvass discovered a real need and desire for fellowship in the church. The spark that was lit when Roy Eide met with the men during the canvass and has now flamed forth in a group of enthusiastic men who have formed a Congregational fellowship with the clear purpose of fellowship and discussion.

The ladies of the Congregational guild are using the money earned in their Christmas bazaar to purchase and install a dossal curtain and other draperies in the sanctuary.

IONE . . .

After long preparation and anticipation, the Ladies Aid has remodeled the church kitchen, with new paint, cupboards, sink, and range. They have also purchased new dishes and the first church dinner was served on Friday, March 14, when the congregation met for an important church meeting.

YSTONE . . .

Pebble Page reports items of erest each month, and recent men- n was given to the Social Action mmittee of the church which has en meeting each month for dis- ssion. One local project is now derway, however, and that is the oviding of an organ for use in the w County Home for Alcoholics. Men of the church interested in hering met on two evenings for structions.

A bus has also been purchased Mr. Lemoine Tuck and is being ed in various Pilgrim Fellowship tivities in the area.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS . . .

Rev. Charles L. Williams reports the organization of a Church Council to coordinate the work of their fellowship, and to meet the first Thursday of the month. A plan of remodeling the church building has been adopted and it calls for a central heating plant, rearranging the sanctuary, addition to the present building and redecorating throughout.

An active Pilgrim Fellowship meets each week, and the church school has doubled in attendance and offerings since last fall. Several new members will be received at Easter.

e Little Theatre Group of the Federated Church, Kellogg, presented this ring "My Friend Irma," adapted from the CBS radio show. The comedy s directed by Rev. John Hanchett. The above scene shows from left to ght, Sidney Chaffee as Kropotkin, Frances Cummings as Mrs. O'Reilly, ouise Chaffee as Magda, Juanita Behrens as Jane, and Helen Jordan as na.

Other activities this spring have been the Lenten Institute sponsored by e Adult Education Committee of their Christian Education Committee; a norgasbord sponsored by the youth groups; and being host to the Pilgrim llowship association meeting on March 30.

GREEN LAKE . . .

Since the death of their minister last fall, activities at Green Lake have continued with Rev. Frederick Amos providing leadership. "The Beacon" is published monthly by a group of young adults in the church and a recent issue calls attention to a Pilgrim Fellowship Fiesta which included a bake sale and fellowship time. Announcement also of the campaign which is underway to raise $10,000 for the purchase of a parsonage.

PULLMAN . . .

Recent activities of the Pullman members have centered around the arrival of their Displaced Persons' family, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schwabe of Vienna, Austria. They are living in the house adjacent to the church, and Mr. Schwabe will assist with the care of the church as well as being employed in the furniture department at WSC.

EVERETT . . .

The Rev. George Halstead has been elected president of the Everett Council of Churches. The latest issue of "Tower Tidings" brings information regarding a Group Plan being sponsored by their church committee. This plan is similar to the neighborhood and colony plan being used by other churches and is designed to promote the fellowship of the church.

A church school workshop was sponsored on March 15 with the Rev- and Mrs. Robert Owen, Miss Carolyn Goddard, and Miss Christine Skelton, all of Seattle as guest leaders. The various departments took the spring materials of the Pilgrim Series curriculum and planned for their use in the Everett church.

WEST SEATTLE . . .

Members and friends of thi church are awaiting the arrival o their new minister, the Rev. Rolan Schlueter. Mr. Schlueter will b remembered by many for his work a the Hillyard church and as Associ ate at First Church, Tacoma. Fo the past two years he has been in Edinburgh, Scotland, and will b returning late this spring. Th Schlueters will begin their work a West Seattle about June 1.

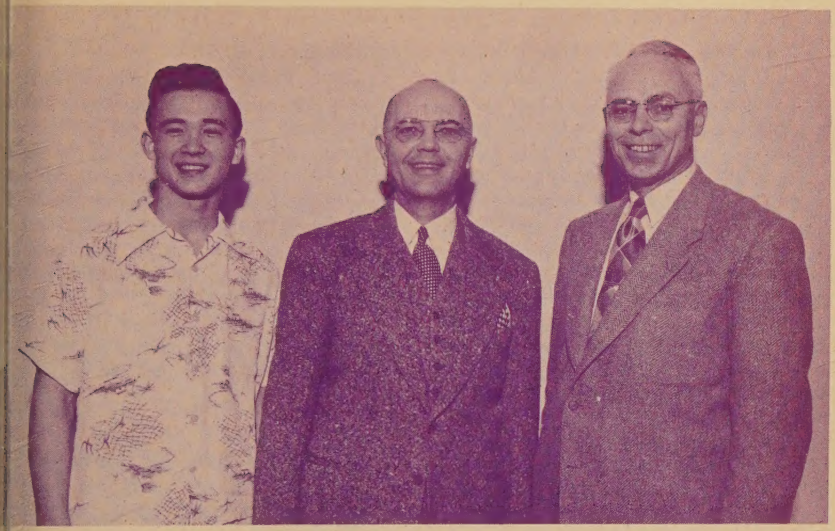
UNIVERSITY . . .

The Rev. John C. Carroll, Minis ter to Youth at University Church for almost four years, has resigned to become the minister of a Community Congregational Church in a high potential area at San Jose, California. Mr. Carroll's resignation is effective May 15.

ALMIRA . . .

This community church was re organized as an experiment in unity in the summer of 1949, under the leadership of Rev. Robert J. Allen. The church has moved ahead with the membership increasing from 124 to 155. Extensive repairs have been made to the church and parsonage. The parsonage has been refinished and repainted, and repairs to the church include refinishing the basement and kitchen, as well as securing a new dossal for the altar and new altar pieces.

The church has met its mission apportionment for the past two years, and the budget has been oversubscribed. A new Baldwin electronic organ has been purchased, and the Women's Auxiliary has been sending clothing to Korea, toys to Delmo and made contributions for the Hendersons.



Picture reading from left to right: Wayne Jang, soloist for Men's Stag; Rev. Ivan R. Smith, minister; and Morton Johnson, program chairman for Men's Stag.

MEN'S STAG IN KIRKLAND

In what proved to be a delightful occasion, the men of the Congregational Church in Kirkland held their first "Men's Stag" on Tuesday, February 19th, with 100 church men in attendance. This Men's Stag is one of a series. Morton Johnson, a church trustee, active layman, and superintendent of schools served as program chairman introducing the speaker, Dr. John Maki. Rev. Ivan Robert Smith, who began his Kirkland ministry on November 1st, planned the affair. Wayne Jang was the soloist. The Women's Federation of the church served a delightful meal.

Dr. Maki, professor in the department of Far Eastern Affairs at the University of Washington, spoke on "The United States and the Crisis in Asia." He gave an illuminating address upon far eastern affairs emphasizing the Korean situation. The men also planned and sponsored "Men's Day in the Church" when laymen assisted in the service by taking various parts and contacted the male constituency regarding attendance. Other "Stag" are in store. The men's next move is to plan and serve a Mother-Daughter Banquet.

BELLEVUE . . .

The Rev. Cleo Strawmyer reports that the contracts have been let for their sanctuary. The plan is for a sanctuary seating 400 and it is expected to be completed sometime in September. There is evidence of a new awakening to Our Christian World Mission, and an increase of local church activities. Mr. David Nelson, a senior at the University of Washington, is serving as Youth Director and Mrs. June Swenson has recently been added to the staff to give assistance in the religious education program.

A coffee hour following the morning service has added greatly to the fellowship experiences of the church.

EAGLE HARBOR . . .

Eagle Harbor Community Church, oldest on Bainbridge Island, is seeking to gather together the Protestants of the vicinity, now that the Island is becoming the residence of so many commuters to Seattle. The church school has grown to the point where space is a problem. Teacher's meetings are enlivened by the presence of half a dozen children, who accompany their mothers. The Rev. Edward Ohrenstein reports that the acquisition of a parsonage is the project for the year.

WALLACE . . .

Rev. Elmer Nourse reports that the contract has been let for the rebuilding of the pipe organ in their church to include a set of tubular chimes.

Youth activities continue to increase in enthusiasm and attendance.

YAKIMA . . .

Rev. Robert M. Kennan writes that some events of importance to the First Congregational Church have taken place there in recent weeks. Eleven new members have been added to the fellowship, and attendance at the church school and morning service have increased. New facilities have been provided for the church school.

Recognition was given to Dr. W. D. Robinson in celebration of the 38th year since his arrival in Yakima.

Laymen's Fellowship

Herbert Erickson

There are good things in store for our conference laymen during the coming weeks. On the weekend of April 26—27 there will be a retreat at N-Sid-Sen on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene. On the following weekend of May 3—4 there will be a similar retreat in the hills of Camp Waskowitz which lies at the foot of Snoqualmie Pass.

We are fortunate to be able to have the inspirational services of Wesley Hotchkiss of New York and other fine leaders for both of these retreats. In addition, worthwhile features of fellowship, fun and good eats will all have their place.

Watch your mail for further announcements and registration opportunities. In the meantime, begin to make your arrangements for a carload of laymen from YOUR church.

DARE WE BE CHRISTIAN

The annual meeting of Pilgrim Fellowship will bring together young people of junior high and high school age to share in an experience of fellowship and inspiration. The conference will be held in the new Fauntleroy Congregational Church on April 18—20. Sessions begin on Friday afternoon with registration at three o'clock, and will continue through Sunday morning.

Miss Jane Anderson of Spokane and President of the Conference Fellowship will preside at the business sessions. Other officers will preside at the luncheons and dinners.

Officers for the year will be elected at the conference, and delegates to the National Council meeting will be chosen.

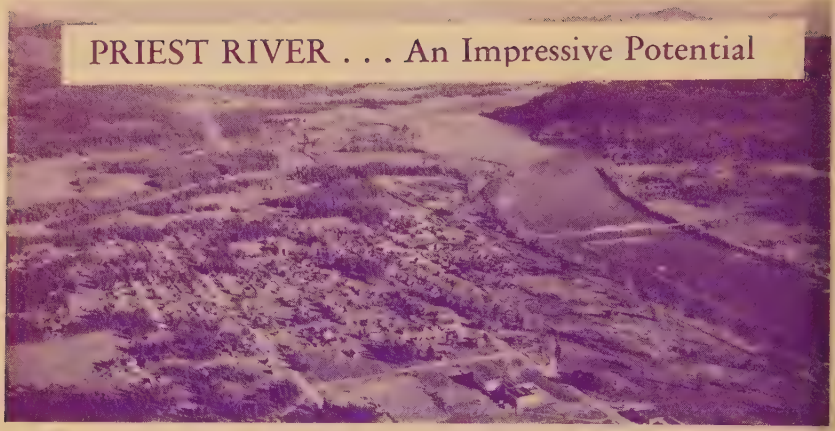
Rev. Wesley Hotchkiss of New York and Associate in the Town and Country Department of the Board of Home Missions will be the special guest. His presentations will center around the program theme, "Dare We Be Christian?" Discussions will relate to the presentations.

There will also be opportunity to share ideas on Pilgrim Fellowship in the local church. Ronald Ratcliffe of Cheney will report on his visit to the mission stations in Mexico. Mrs. Chester Fisk of Tacoma will give a demonstration of the rhythmic choir as an expression of worship. The new Congregational movie, "More for Peace" will be previewed. Rev. A. M. Lusk, minister of Fauntleroy Church, will conduct the Installation and Communion service. Bruce Forbes of Alki Church will serve as organist for the conference.

Reservations for meals and housing should be directed to Miss Carolyn Goddard, 9260 California Avenue, Seattle 6, and should be in by April 11.

Fauntleroy Congregational Church, host to the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference, April 18—20.

PRIEST RIVER . . . An Impressive Potential



On the first Sunday in March the Community Congregational Church of Priest River, Idaho was crowded to the doors for the eleven o'clock service. A number of friends and former members from out of town were in attendance. The festive spirit was carried over into a family-style dinner in the church social rooms following the service.

The occasion was the rededication of the church sanctuary, newly remodeled and sparkling with a skilfully applied finish of celotex and paint. The project was initiated by the enterprising choir, a group organized and ably trained by Mrs. James Duffey, former lady of the parsonage.

With a series of profitable ventures, largely of culinary nature, along with some generous unsolicited contributions, the choir raised the necessary funds for the undertaking. Then, with brief direction by a paid carpenter, the men of the church did the work in a total period of about two weeks. On several occasions a crew was still vigorously wielding hammers or paint brushes while the rest of the community was long since sound asleep.

To match appearance with comfort, the Board of Trustees decided that the ancient and ineffective wood furnace would have to go, and a fine new automatic oil burner was substituted in time for the dedicatory service. Not to be outdone, the Church School and the Ladies Aid appear to be teaming up to provide funds for remodeling two other rooms on the main floor, with the hope of completing the final project before Easter.

All this flurry of excitement has caused the church to reflect upon its proud history. Old-timers remember how the church was organized in 1901, with two women being sent to a session of the Conference bearing a request that help be given in setting up the local organization. One of these was Mrs. M. P. Jones, mother of Mrs. S. S. McEwan, the only remaining charter member. Her brothers Stanley and Warren Jones are also still active in the church.

Another pioneer family is represented by Mrs. Charles Oldham, whose father, J. C. Finstad, was the first deacon, as well as Sunday School Superintendent.

The first minister, the Rev. Al-

pert Bradstreet, served only about six months, and was followed by the Rev. H. W. Chamberlain in June of 1902. The church building, still in use, was erected during that summer. Lots for both the church and parsonage were donated by M. S. Lindsay.

Construction was directed by Charles Beardmore, chairman of the Board, who had an added personal interest in speeding the work along. It was his hope that his forthcoming marriage to Lucy E. Gumaer would be the first of the many happy unions to be blessed in the attractive sanctuary. Unfortunately, his illness interfered with the plans, and the wedding took place in Spokane on October 29, instead. Mrs. Beardmore still lives in Priest River, following the fortunes of church and community with an interest not at all daunted by a confining illness.

Conference interest has recently turned to Priest River with the selection of the church as one to receive the special attention of Donald Mills as Director of Parish Ministry. After nearly a year of futile seeking for a minister, and with activities lagging for lack of leadership, special help seemed imperative.

Evidences of an impressive potential give further proof that the choice was strategic. During the year of comparative inactivity, the church school with cultivation by Whitworth College students, trebled in size. An Every Family Visitation conducted by LeRoy Eide of the Conference Staff in 1951 indicated adequate financial resources. A hasty survey of the community has revealed about 250 families as claiming loyalty to the church. About seventy-five high school young people are eligible for Pilgrim Fellowship affiliation. Many of them are already participating in some way, with about forty attending the morning service.

An Every Family Visitation for 1952 is now in process. Its successful completion, expected before Easter, will lay the foundation for a greatly expanded ministry to the community. No difficulty is expected now in the selection of a minister, for reverberations of the local enthusiasm are being noted elsewhere, and inquiries are coming in.

Next September, when the Congregation gathers on a Sunday morning to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the church edifice, minister and people will look backward with pride and gratitude, but only briefly. Their eyes will be on the promising future.

Service of Rededication

Charles Rodney, Board Chairman and Chief of Police.

News Briefs

Miss Grace Storms, Director of Children's Work for the Division of Christian Education, will be at the Church School Teacher's Conference at Camp N-Sid-Sen from August 9—16. The fall materials of the Pilgrim Series curriculum on the theme of "Knowing and Using the Bible" will be demonstrated throughout the workshop. This is an excellent opportunity of teacher training. Details of the program may be secured from Rev. John Hanchett of Kellogg who will be the Dean of the Conference.

* * *

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter the Good Seed" is the church school project for this quarter related to Our Christian World Mission. The project is concerned with agricultural missions, and money received will be dedicated on Rural Life Sunday, May 18. Details of the project are found in the spring Program Manual. Additional posters and information are secured from Rev. Armstrong Hunter, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

* * *

Rev. William McCormick of San Francisco and President of the Board of Home Missions, and Rev. Nelson Dreier of New York and staff member of The Missions Council, were leaders of an area meeting in Seattle on March 24. The meeting was sponsored by The Missions Council to consider with groups across the country some concerns to be presented at the General Council. A representative group of some sixty-five persons shared in the sessions held at the Conference Home.

Frank Edwards

The Missions Council is sponsoring this spring a series of Stewardship Workshops. Our Conference will be host to the workshop for the Northwest, with the meetings being held at the Davenport Hotel, Spokane, from April 22—24.

Rev. Frank Edwards of The Missions Council staff will be the leader of the workshop. The purpose is to train a selected group of ministers in each area in the techniques of stewardship education. Approximately six representatives from each of the conferences of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington will share in this experience. Mr. LeRoy Eide is assisting with the arrangements for the workshop.

* * *

Pomona College, Claremont, California, will be host to the General Council meeting from June 18—25. Our Conference has 23 official delegates.

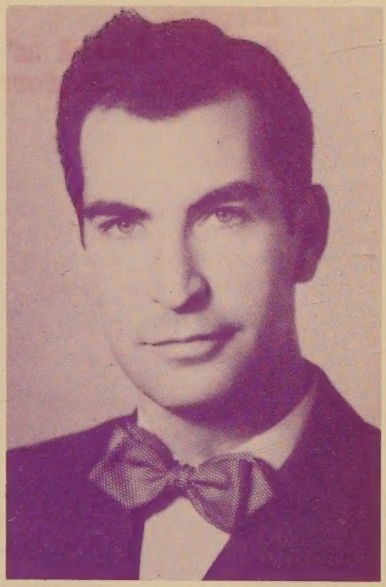
THE WOMAN'S GIFT

The Woman's Gift, begun in 1941, s one of the distinctive ways whereby members of the National 'ellowship of Congregational Chris- an women have extended the reach f the Christian gospel in local ommunities, in our own nation, and round the world, through minister- ng to the needs of body, mind, and pirit. As stewards of God's bounty ur women, with love and gratitude, ontinue to make a thank offering, o go the second mile.

National projects assisted by The oman's Gift include the work of ne Family Life Commission of the ivision of Christian Education, the chools of our American Missionary ssociation, Schauffler College of eligious and Social Work; the work f the Church Extension department s building new churches; the pro- ram of Christian citizenship of the ouncil for Social Action; work with omen in younger churches in our ission stations; aid to foreign tudents; and provision of literature r mission areas.

Fifty per cent of the Gift received n our Conference will remain in our rea, and will be used as follows: 0% of the funds will contribute to Scholarship Fund being establish- d to assist young persons interest- d in Church Vocations; 25% will e used for Camperships, preferably r young people of minority groups.

The Woman's Gift received last ear amounted to $2,017.65. It is oped that this amount may be xceeded this year. The Gift will e dedicated at the annual confer- nce at Plymouth Church. Additional nformation may be secured from rs. C. L. Covell, 3814 North 18th, acoma.



Wesley Hotchkiss

Rev. Wesley Hotchkiss, Associate Director of the Town and Country Department of the Board of Home Missions, will be in our Conference from April 14 to May 4. He will spend most of his time with the rural churches and the Columbia Basin area.

Other responsibilities while here will include leadership at the Pilgrim Fellowship conference, and the Laymen's Fellowship retreats.

Rev. Frank Forrester, chairman of the Town and Country Committee, is arranging his itinerary.

* * *

Vacation Church School Institutes will be held during this month by the Council of Churches. One helpful pamphlet available, upon request, from the Conference Office is "WHAT IS A VACATION SCHOOL?" by Mildred Edwards.

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For Summer Fun and Worship

N-SID-SEN . . . DECEPTION PASS . . . SEABECK

JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCES . . .

Camp N-Sid-Sen, Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
July 12—19; Rev. Elmer Nourse, Dean

Deception Pass, Whidby Island, Washington
August 3—10; Rev. Robert Owen, Dean

SENIOR HIGH CONFERENCES . . .

Camp N-Sid-Sen, Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
July 19—26; Rev. Carl Baird, Dean

Seabeck, Hood's Canal
August 18—25; Rev. Paul Pruitt, Dean

FAMILY CAMP . . .

Camp N-Sid-Sen, Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
July 26—August 2; Rev. George Halstead, Dean

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CAMP . . .

Camp N-Sid-Sen, Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
August 2—9

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER'S CONFERENCE . . .

Camp N-Sid-Sen, Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
August 9—16; Rev. John Hanchett, Dean

* * *

For Further Information Write—

Washington Congregational Christian Conference
720 14th Avenue North, Seattle 2